have been announced and the guidelines for these schemes are being finalised. A provision of Rs. 10 crore has been earmarked in the B.E. 2001-02 for creating cluster of excellence, *i.e.* aparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs. 15 crore has also been made in B.E. 2001-02 for scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

Global demand for jute goods

1188. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a global demand for jute goods and is likely to go up 20 per cent by 2007;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard are being worked out by the Centre to improve the jute goods;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the approach paper on the 10th Plan, India could really export 2.5 lakh tones of jute goods; and

(d) if so, what are the concrete steps taken by the Centre in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The global demand for jute goods was approximately 6.70 lakh MT in 1999-2000. This demand as per projections made in the approach paper on the 10th Plan is expected to increase to over 7.00 lakh MT by 2007.

(b) To improve the quality and productivity of jute goods, Government have decided to launch Jute Technology Mission (JTM). In addition, support to modernization and diversification of jute products is available under the existing schemes of the Government.

(c) and (d) In the approach paper, export of jute goods has been projected to reach at 2.5 lakh MT during the year 2007. Government has been taking various steps to increase the export of jute goods, which include External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme to supplement export efforts of the exporters, implementation of the

Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF), sponsoring of market-oriented fairs and delegations abroad, buyer-seller meets etc.

Import of Jute Products

1189. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had now become the largest importer of Raw Jute and Jute Products in the world?

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as import of jute products were 54 M.T. in 1987 and is now 1.40 lac M.T.;

(c) details of imports, year-wise;

(d) whether the import have increased due to compulsory jute packing provisions, if so, whether Government propose to dilute the same;

(e) whether the imports have hurt the interests of domestic jute growers and workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and whether Government's plan to regulate imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the report of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), India came out to be the largest importer of raw jute in 1999 and 2000 only. However, India has never been the largest importer of jute goods during the previous years. A statement giving the details of year-wise import of raw jute and jute products during the last three years and in the current year by India is enclosed. (*See* below)

(d) No, Sir. The import of raw jute and jute goods have not increased due to the compulsory Jute Packing provisions, since imported jute bags and bags made from imported raw jute cannot be used in the sectors specified under the Mandatory Jute Packaging Order. The Government has already exempted cement and urea from the provision of the Jute packaging Materials